



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

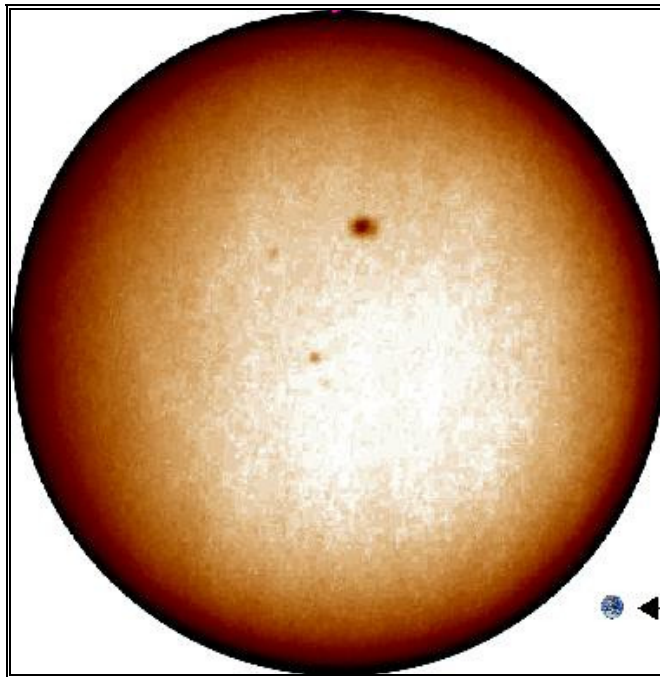
Public Service Since 1949

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November 2008

Where *are* those sunspots?



You are here!

Relative size of Earth and Sun.

See page 6

Pennsylvania Becomes 27th State With PRB-1 Law on Books

On Wednesday, October 8, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell (D) signed into law a bill that guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit. The bill passed in the House with a vote of 196-1; it passed in the Senate with a vote of 49-1. The new law is scheduled to go into effect December 8, 60 days after signing.

More on page 5

There are several volunteers opportunities in November; see page 7

<p>The Blurb is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis KB3JWK kb3jwk@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p>Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862</p> <p>Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>	<p>Directors: N3MT (08) K3XS (08) W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) KB3IV (A) ND3Q (SK)</p>	<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net</p>
	<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater 	

<p>Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory: WB3KOJ</p>	<p>DX: N3MT Emerg. Coord: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM</p>	<p>Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU</p>	<p>TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBV Youth: N3MT</p>
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All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

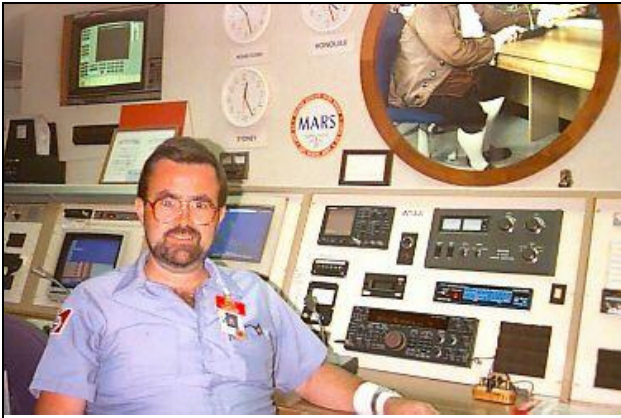
License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through WU3I-L
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net
Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net
Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

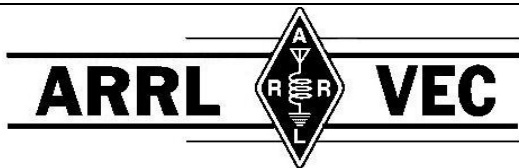
The Prez Sez...

Here it is November and the weather has been good to us for the time being. Next year is the 60th year of this club. We are trying to plan a fine way to celebrate this milestone. The major idea is to have 12 volunteers operate W3AA from their station for a month each. This would be HF operation. A banquet has also been suggested. For all this and December's elections we need participation from the Members. This means you must stand up and get involved in your club. At the October meeting the nominating committee reported no members stepped up to run for office.

November is usually Old Timers Nite and it would be great to see some old timers at the meeting. Some of our more senior members do not drive after dark and have no way to attend. Pick up your directory and see who is near you and give one of these members a call and pick them up for the meeting.

See You at the Meeting!

de Steve, WU3I



There will be no Thursday evening test session in November due to the holiday.

***MEMBERSHIP STATS***

At press time P.M.R.C. had:

85 Full Paid Members
8 Family Members
1 Youth Member
2 Honorary Members
0 Pending Member

November Birthdays

05 Al Tribble - W3STW

07 Gerald Cechony – W3GER

12 Arnold Sadwin - KC2HX

14 Bill Nichelson W3KOC

15 Edythe Victor (XYL WA2DTW)

19 Brad Swanson - N3GLH

20 Bob Gargano - N3YGY

22 Bill Popovic - W3AOK

23 Ted Hassell – KB3HAQ

24 Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)

27 Mel Toren - N2MT

29 Bob Nicotero - KB2ERL

Betty Walmsley (XYL W3DO)

From the Secretary ...***PMRC BoD Meeting Minutes, 10/01/2008***

Steve WU3I and Club President opened the meeting 2006 hours, in attendance were Ed KB3IV, Eric N3QV, Dick W3RM, and Al W3STW.

Dick our Treasurer, gave a brief account of the Club's financial transactions for September '08, the report was approved. Commenting on letters of appreciation received from the 2008 Scholarship recipients, Dick said their photographs will appear in the October '08 Blurb.

Net Control Chairman Ed states that the Club's Sunday morning Phil-Mont Mobil Radio Club's 2 meter/ 70 centimeter and Echo link, the Ten on Ten and 75 meter nets are running well. However, Ed says he still would like a couple more volunteer net control operators to increase time between net control assignments. Reporting on the W3QV repeater, Ed says a work crew is still forming to refurbish the repeater shack. A search for the Southampton off-site receiver is still underway. Old Timers Night ideas were expressed, but nothing definite materialized.

Steve contacted Larry K3HWE, regarding the January 14th '09 PMRC Auctionfest to avoid a schedule conflict.

Al, W3STW, had nothing to report regarding the identification of candidates wishing to participate in the PMRC December 14th '08 elections.

Ideas regarding recognition of the Club's 60th anniversary were expressed, the idea to have 12 members to act as a PMRC special event station one member for each month. A station wishing to confirm the contact will be sent a certificate upon receipt of an SASE. The idea to reprint, one for each month in '09, notable Blurb articles obtained from the Club's archivist, is believed to be doable ... stay tuned.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes, 10/08/2008

President Steve opened the meeting at 19:55 hours and gave a few words of welcome to the guests and members. In the absence of net control chairman Ed KB3IV and repeater chairman Bill W3AOK, Steve reports although the nets are fine Ed could use a

couple more volunteers for the Sunday morning nets. The repeater shack is in need of a paint job and the generator room needs a few repairs. If you can help as a net control operator or join a repeater work party, or both, please contact Ed and or Bill.

Contact information may be found in the Club's Directory or on page two of the Blurb. For "Old Timer's Night" Steve would like to get Rolland, W3PWG, involved via a camcorder arrangement. A check with Larry, K3HWE, reveals there is no schedule conflict with the Auctionfest and hospital blood drive. The Auctionfest is scheduled for 01/14/2009.

Al W3STW, Nomination Committee Chairman reports the process is ongoing. If you desire to become a Club Officer or Director contact Al or any of the other Club Officers or Directors. Contact information can be found on page two of the Blurb. In recognition of the Club's 60th year of operation, it is proposed that a cadre of twelve club members volunteer to act as a PMRC special event station for a month. A short preamble will be generated for HF phone and CW.

Details are evolving- if you have any ideas as to how to make this work contact Steve or any of the other Club's Officers or Directors.

Dick, W3RM, called attention to the October '08 Blurb article about this years FAR Scholarship recipients. The Club supports FAR and Dick reminds us that we have met our '08 FAR commitment; contributions for 2009 will gladly be accepted.

The final report for the evening came from Carmen, KE3QB, he reported on the success of the 2008 MS150 Bike Tour: there were 7000 bikers and the event raised over five million dollars.

Vice President Eric, N3QV, introduced tonight's speaker, Dick W3RM. Using a past DXpedition with Mike N3MT, to the Turks & Caicos Islands as an example, Dick gave a meaningful audio and photograph presentation showing their use of certain Morse Code copying techniques, allowing them to document as many as four contacts per minute.

***Respectfully, Al W3STW
PMRC Secretary***

Antenna law *from the cover*

Senate Bill 884 (now Act 88), "An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Restricting Municipalities from Regulating Amateur Radio Service Communications," was first introduced on June 1, 2007 by Pennsylvania Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) who represents portions of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The bill requires local municipalities to "reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and [to] impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the municipality" and says that "[n]o ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 65 feet above ground level, [but a] municipality may impose necessary regulations to ensure the safety of amateur radio antenna structures, but must reasonably accommodate amateur service communications." The text of the bill may be found here-

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessIn d=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0884&pn=2433>

The driving force behind the bill's passage was George Brechmann, N3HBT, of Warminster. "We didn't have a PRB-1 law and I just got tired of people telling me it couldn't be done," he told the ARRL. "So I called up my senator's local office and told them what I wanted. They referred it to his Harrisburg office and a while later, I got a call from Senator Greenleaf's executive assistant Eric Pauley wanting more information."

Brechmann said the bill was stuck in committee "for the longest time, with lots of back-and-forth. Fortunately, they were able to reach a compromise with the help of the League and its General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. This act even encompasses the urban areas of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh." Brechmann, who has a 60 foot crank-up tower in his backyard, says he has no plans to get a taller antenna support structure.

Brechmann said he found out about the bill's

passing in the most appropriate of ways -- on the radio. "I'm the trustee at the club station, K3DN, at our senior center; we have about 130 members there. I went over on Tuesday evening to unlock the doors and get the rigs going, when my wife Elaine, N3TMP, called me on the radio to tell me the bill had passed the House. Five minutes later, she called me again on the radio to tell me it had passed the Senate! And now the governor signed it as soon as it reached his desk."

Saying that getting this bill passed is his "little contribution to posterity," Brechmann said he is glad to be able to do something good for the amateur community "because they have been so very good to me. I'm blind, and Amateur Radio has been a very large part of my life." Brechmann stays active ragchewing on 15 meters "and 10 when it's open," as well as serving as Net Control and coordinating his township's public service events.

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, said he was "thrilled" with the bill's passage: "The Pennsylvania Legislature showed overwhelming support of Amateur Radio [by passing this bill]. This legislation was started by George and coordinated with Senator Greenleaf and Representative Kathy Watson (R). Pennsylvania hams made an outstanding effort contacting their senators and representatives [in support of the bill]. By seeking their support, they really helped with the success of this legislation. The effort by all hams throughout the country to foster Amateur Radio as an effective communications method in emergencies did much to highlight a valued reputation for Amateur Radio, and without a doubt, had an effect on these proceedings."

de ARRL letter

Listen to spark gap,***Go here to hear!***

1965 recording of spark gap CW-

<http://www.lakeerieba.com/HobartSparkXmtr/HobartSparkXmtr.htm>

What's with the sun? *continued from cover*

Dark spots, some as large as 50,000 miles in diameter, typically move across the surface of the sun, contracting and expanding as they go. These strange and powerful phenomena are known as sunspots, but now they are all gone. Not even solar physicists know why it's happening and what this odd solar silence might be indicating for our future.

Although periods of inactivity are normal for the sun, this current period has gone on much longer than usual and scientists are starting to worry—at least a little bit. Recently 100 scientists from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and North America gathered to discuss the issue at an international solar conference at Montana State University. Today's sun is as inactive as it was two years ago, and solar physicists don't have a clue as to why.

"It continues to be dead," said Saku Tsuneta with the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, program manager for the Hinode solar mission, noting that it is at least a little bit worrisome for scientists.

Dana Longcope, a solar physicist at MSU, said the sun usually operates on an 11-year cycle with maximum activity occurring in the middle of the cycle. The last cycle reached its peak in 2001 and is believed to be just ending now, Longcope said. The next cycle is just beginning and is expected to reach its peak sometime around 2012. But so far nothing is happening.

"It's a dead face," Tsuneta said of the sun's appearance.

Tsuneta said solar physicists aren't weather forecasters and they can't predict the future. They do have the ability to observe, however, and they have observed a longer-than-normal period of solar inactivity. In the past, they observed that the sun once went 50 years without producing sunspots.

That period coincided with a little ice age on Earth that lasted from 1650 to 1700. Coincidence? Some scientists say it was, but many worry that it wasn't. Geophysicist Phil Chapman, the first Australian to become an astronaut with NASA, said pictures from

the US Solar and Heliospheric Observatory also show that there are currently no spots on the sun.

He also noted that the world cooled quickly between January last year and January this year, by about 0.7C.

"This is the fastest temperature change in the instrumental record, and it puts us back to where we were in 1930," Dr Chapman noted in *The Australian* recently.

If the world does face another mini Ice Age, it could come without warning. Evidence for abrupt climate change is readily found in ice cores taken from Greenland and Antarctica. One of the best known examples of such an event is the Younger Dryas cooling, which occurred about 12,000 years ago, named after the arctic wildflower found in northern European sediments. This event began and ended rather abruptly, and for its entire 1000 year duration the North Atlantic region was about 5°C colder.

Could something like this happen again? There's no way to tell, and because the changes can happen all within one decade—we might not even see it coming.

Now this 11-year low in Sunspot activity has raised fears among a small but growing number of scientists that rather than getting warmer, the Earth could possibly be about to return to another cooling period. The idea is especially intriguing considering that most of the world is in preparation for global warming.

Sorokhtin believes that a lack of sunspots does indicate a coming cooling period based on certain past trends and early records. In fact, he calls manmade climate change "a drop in the bucket" compared to the fierce and abrupt cold that can potentially be brought on by inactive solar phases. Sorokhtin's advice: "Stock up on fur coats"...just in case.

Correction: Last month I listed KC2TUT as K2TUT. Sorry 'bout that John. -ed

***Excerpts from unknown comic,
(But it's probably Dave Barry...)***

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity and where does it go after it leaves the toaster?

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches one that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important lesson about electricity.

It also illustrates how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up batches of "electrons," which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpet so that they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travel down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1877 was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879 when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: the electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated was 1937.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited

benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists have developed the laser, an electronic appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations to the human eyeball, provided they remember to change the power setting from "Bulldozer" to "Eyeball."

Ham volunteers needed ...

Philadelphia Airport Exercise

November 1, 2008 from approximately 0730 to 1500L. If any Philadelphia ARES members are interested in participating in the exercise please reply to Larry with your interest.

The below information is forwarded from Bob, WA3PZO.

Thank you.

Larry K3HWE, Phila ARES EC

The drill is named EPEX for emergency preparedness exercise. Here's a press release from 2005 that I found online:

<http://www.phl.org/news/050926.html>

Boscov's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Volunteers needed for 27 Nov 08 on Parkway We meet up at 0600L Sheraton Hotel 2nd floor mezzanine for pancake breakfast which is free for all volunteers-on parade route by 0800L-more details from k3cj@arrl.net and or see link below.

http://www.gophila.com/C/Fall_for_Philadelphia/389/U/6ABC_Boscovs_Thanksgiving_Day_Parade/1406.html

de Charlye K3CJ, k3cj@verizon.net

Mayfair Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade

Volunteers needed for pre - Thanksgiving Day parade Sunday 23 Nov 08. Form up at Frankford and Welch 1100L-more details at link below <http://www.harcnet.org/parade.htm>

For sale: Hustler 6BTV vertical antenna. \$120 or best offer. Contact your editor at 215-908-7225 or email KB3JWK@ARRL.net

Proceeds benefit PMRC scholarship fund.

November at PMRC...

- 1st** Daylight Saving Time ends
tomorrow morning
- 2nd** Sunday net - WU3I NCS
- 4th** Tuesday Election day ...*at last!*
- 9th** Sunday net - W3STW NCS
- 11th** Tuesday - Veteran's Day
Hey, go hug a Vet!
- 16th** Sunday net - KC2PMW NCS
- 23rd** Sunday net - N3OWM NCS
- 27th** Thursday - Thanksgiving
No VE Test session
- 30th** Sunday net - N3QV NCS

And don't forget the *ARES* net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater. Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from *you!*

Old Timers at the November meeting...

I didn't know about this annual event but I'm looking forward to meeting them. I hope there's a good turnout!

Now let me just find my directory and see if I can help someone get there....

Stop! Don't shop, Adopt!

Shelters and rescue groups are overflowing with great pets waiting for a good home. Contact one or go to www.petfinder.com.

Go Phillies!

Whatever happens in the World Series

--- ... ---

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc.
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

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